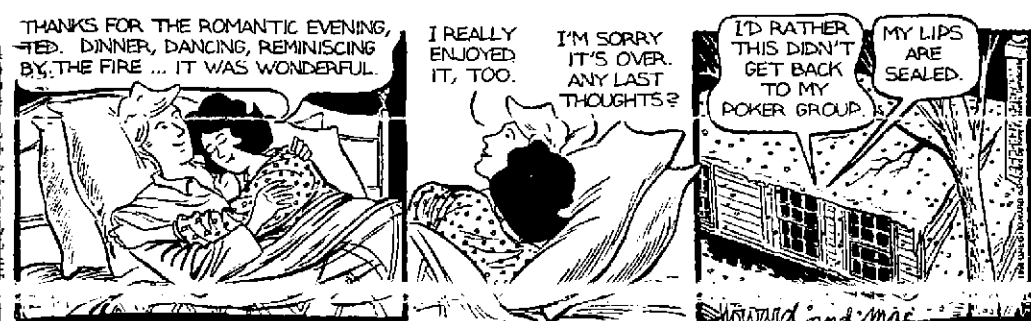


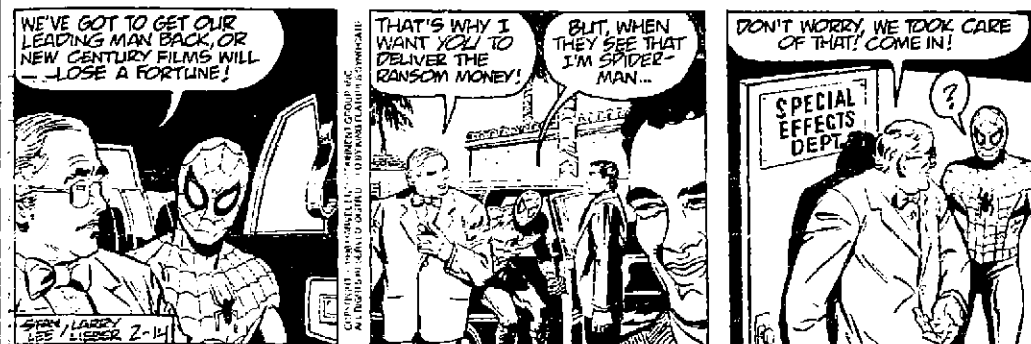
BLONDIE



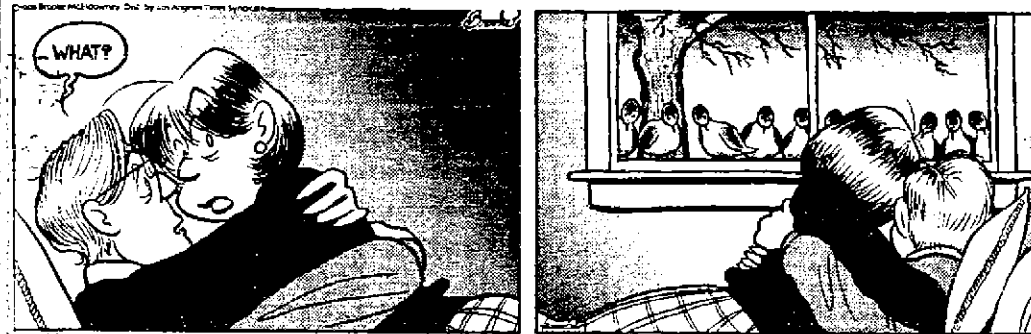
SALLY FORTH



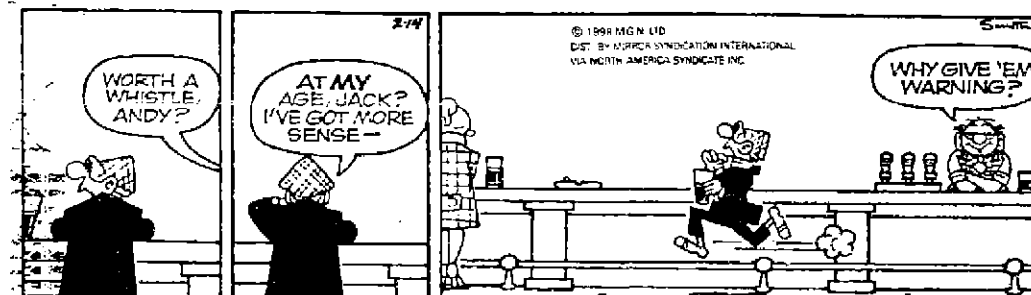
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9-CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



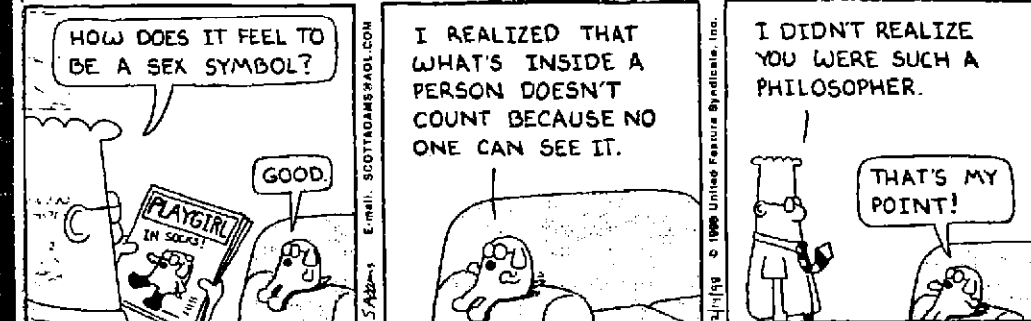
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



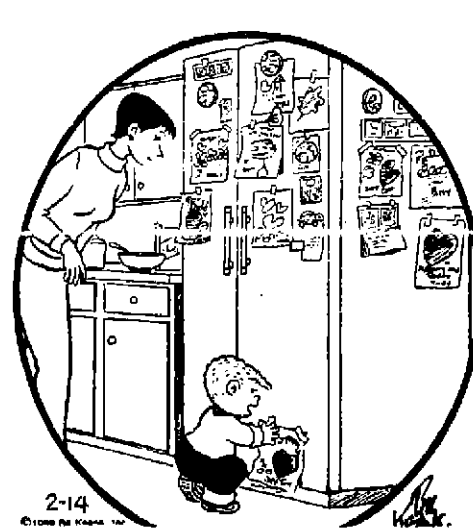
DILBERT



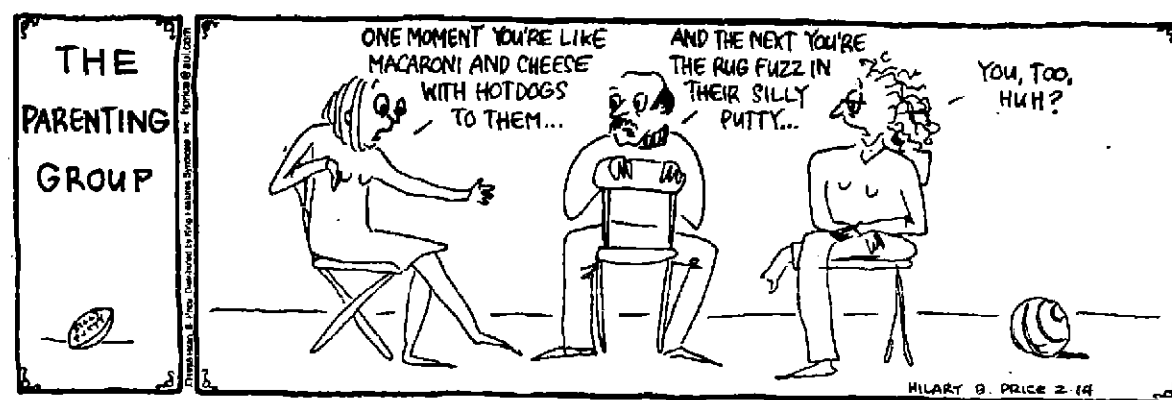
DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

TV personality **Hugh Downs** is 77. Actress-singer **Florence Henderson** is 84. Actor-comedian **Gregory Hines** is 52. Sen. **Judd Gregg**, R-N.H., is 51. TV personality **Pat O'Brien** is 50. Magician **Teller** (Penn and Teller) is 50. Cajun singer-musician **Michael Doucet** (Beausoleil) is 47. Actor **Ken Wahl** is 41. Actress **Meg Tilly** is 38. Rock musician **Ricky Womack** (The Fixx) is 32. Tennis player **Manuela Maleeva** is 31.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merrim-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). Judd's Solution Tomorrow 2-14-98

by Judd

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merrim-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). Judd's Solution Tomorrow 2-14-98

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For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Beethoven

CVSPNKFCA XVSO
LJHECAXVTRPNLJ
HFDBASESSAMYXIV
TRRAPRESOPMOCWO
SYCONCERTOSNMDK
IAGPLNGPUEEADUO
BZTIFEEXOTTMWLU
TRQADOHINLRRLJI
GFENNOBCVDCEAAY
XDWOVORTASC GVUR
PONLKJSPIBGFEOQ

Friday's unlisted clue: SIESTA

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Saturday's unlisted clue hint: BEETHOVEN'S FIRST NAME

Bachelor Concertos Opera Quartets
Bonn Deafness Overtures Sonatas
Cello German Piano Vienna
Composer Masses Prodigy

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

Put yourself in West's chair and follow the play, looking at only the bidding and the North and West cards. See if you can find the best exit after South gives your side the lead in an uneasy end position. South takes dummy's club ace, draws trumps and exits with the diamond jack.

West plays his queen, but East overtakes and leads a club. (East's play might have been important had West led from K-Q-10.) West wins and cashes his last club, and East discards. What should West lead now? Before deciding, he must review the bidding and play. The play indicates that South started with five hearts and four clubs. Most likely, his diamond jack was a singleton (East's massive pre-empt), which leaves South with three spades. Because one of them must be the ace, where does West go from here? A diamond lead offers a ruff and sluff and won't work. Even if South has two diamonds (unlikely), he can ruff in dummy and claim. So West must lead a spade. If he leads low, East's jack will go to South's ace, and South will then finesse against West's queen. Because West has no winning exit unless East holds the spade jack, West must exit boldly with his spade queen! Regardless of where South wins the trick, West's spade nine prevents South from dodging a spade loser, and the game goes one down.

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: West

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dbl	4♦	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Club king

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0103

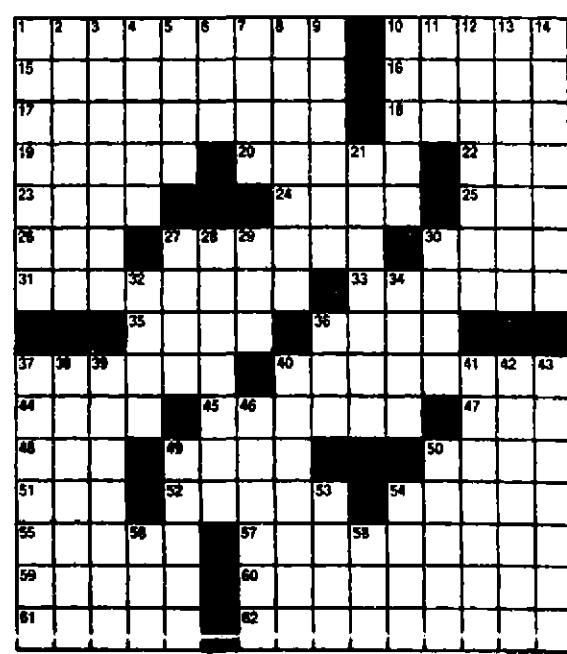
- ACROSS**
- Deteriorates
 - Like some humor
 - One, for some
 - Ancient square
 - More than skeptical
 - 1972 Elton John hit
 - Some medical procedures
 - Playwright Fugard
 - Flood insurance?
 - Reasoned
 - Familia members
 - Low, in Limoges
 - PC key
 - Calling
 - Trujillo (Puerto Rican city)
 - Like some skylines
 - Big name in mail order
 - Catch some
 - Animal "with bristled hair," to Shakespeare
 - Over
 - Some Bach pieces
 - Porters
 - Weird
 - Plumb of "The Brady Bunch"
 - Up-to-date
 - Meanies
 - Fail short
 - Suffix in political science
 - Friends in Firenze
 - Express alternative
 - Sprang
 - Make easier to swallow
 - Go for, as the heels
 - Strategic team athlete
 - Opposition
 - Screwball

DOWN

- They're found beside temples
- Harte's John Oakhurst, for one
- Touch up
- View
- "House" (1991 hit)
- N.E.A. nail-biters
- Sandwich choice
- Took out
- Electronics whiz
- Sees
- Gray
- Not fixed
- In shares
- Tries to dislodge
- Gunwale attachment
- Corp. treasurers, maybe

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ALEC RAFT HODS
LIMO EBOAT AROW
EZIO VOLTA VENI
FALLCOLLECTIONS
ALTO TENSES
BASSET WRING
ATPAR ISIT ABAT
STICKTOONESGUNS
TUTU RUNG AORTA
CAUSE CLOSER



Puzzle by Rich Morin

- Proportionately
- Scone relative
- Plays the ace
- "Murder by Death" actor
- Dresses fussily
- Unkind
- Kind of point
- "This" outrage!
- Shade of green
- Victoria, on "Dallas"
- Actor Hardin et al.

are available by touch-tone phone: 1-900-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.